

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH LABOR LEADER EXPRESSES PREFERENCE FOR VIGGEN

1. DANISH PRESS REPORTED OCT 23 THAT THOMAS NIELSEN, PRESIDENT OF THE DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION, BELIEVED THAT SWEDISH OFFSET OFFERS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF A LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER WERE BETTER THAN THE FRENCH AND AMERICAN. NIELSEN REPORTEDLY MADE THE STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AFTER A CALL ON HIM BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SWEDISH EMBASSY HERE. THE REPRESENTATIVE EXPLAINED DETAILS OF THE SWEDISH OFFSET OFFER IF DENMARK WERE TO BUY THE VIGGEN. NIELSEN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE DOUBTED WHETHER THE PURCHASE OF EITHER THE FRENCH OR THE AMERICAN PLANE WOULD HAVE AS GOOD AN EFFECT ON THE DANISH EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AS A PURCHASE FROM SWEDEN. THE SWEDISH OFFSET WOULD PROVIDE JOBS FOR 1800-2000 DANES OVER A TEN YEAR PERIOD.

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2. COMMENT: NIELSEN'S STATEMENT IS NOT A CATEGORICAL ONE AND WILL PROBABLY NOT HAVE GREAT EFFECT ON THE FINAL PROCUREMENT DECISION OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT. IT IS, HOWEVER, ONE THAT COULD PERHAPS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO AMERICAN COMPETITORS HAD TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO PRESENT THEIR CASES TO NIELSEN AT THE TIME OF THE VISIT TO COPENHAGEN DURING THE WEEK OF OCT 7 BY THE BOARD CHAIRMEN OF GENERAL DYNAMICS AND UNITED AIR-CRAFT, WE SUGGESTED THAT THEY INCLUDE ABOUT SEVEN DANISH LABOR LEADERS, INCLUDING NIELSEN, IN THEIR LUNCHEON BRIEFING PRESENTATION. THEY EXPLAINED THEIR FAILURE TO DO SO ON THE BASIS OF AN UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE RESPONSE FROM THE DANISH PRESS AND THE DANISH FEDERATION OF INDUSTRIES.

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